

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 JUSE-00 /079 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, CS, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: ATTEMPTED EXTRADITION OF ROBERT
VESCO

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S
NOON BRIEFING OF JULY 25 ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS.

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT COSTA RICA HAS TURNED DOWN
OUR APPEAL TO THEIR EARLIER REFUSAL TO GRANT
EXTRADITION OF ROBERT VESCO?

SUGGESTEDREPLY:

YES, COSTA RICA'S SECOND PENAL COURT (SEGUNDA
SALA) REJECTED OUR APPEAL ON JULY 23.

Q: IS THAT THE END, OR IS A FURTHER APPEAL POSSIBLE?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

THE EXTRADITION PROCESS UNDER OUR TREATIES WITH
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MOST COUNTIRES, INCLUDING COSTA RICA, IS A

JUDICIAL ONE. THE COSTA RICAN COURTS HAVE
TURNED US DOWN, SAYING AN ATTEMPTED FRAUD IS
NOT A CRIME COVERED BY OUR EXTRADITION TREATY
WITH COSTA RICA. AS FAR AS THAT CRIME IS

CONCERNED, THERE IS APPARENTLY NO FURTHER JUDICIAL
STEP AVAILABLE TO US.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THE END OF THE USG ATTEMPT TO BRING
VESCO TO JUSTICE?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

NO, IT MEANS ONLY THAT THE JUDICIAL PROCESS WITH
RESPECT TO THAT REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION HAS BEEN
EXHAUSTED IN COSTA RICA.

Q: AREN'T THERE OTHER ACTIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN
IF THE US WERE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT PURSUING HIM?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

WE PURSUED MR. VESCO ACTIVELY IN COSTA RICA, AND I
CAN ASSURE YOU THE USG IS SERIOUS IN ITS DESIRE TO
BRING HIM TO JUSTICE. HOWEVER, I WILL NOT GET INTO
A DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MEASURES BY WHICH THIS COULD
BE ACCOMPLISHED.

Q: WHERE IS VESCO? DO WE KNOW?

SUGGESTED REPLY:

SORRY, I HAVE NOTHING MORE FOR YOU ON THE SUBJECT.
(AT ONE POINT EARLIER THIS MONTH HE WAS REPORTED
TO HAVE BEEN SEEN IN NASSAU.)

2. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED.

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